

2008 Wisconsin Corn and Soybean Planting Intentions Back to 2006 Levels

For the 2008 growing season, Wisconsin farmers intend to plant 10 percent fewer acres to corn than last year. The large decrease in expected corn acres was fueled by increased soybean and wheat planting intentions.

Wisconsin farmers intend to plant 3.65 million acres to corn for all purposes, a 400,000 acre decrease from 2007. Current Wisconsin corn planting intentions are the same as 2006 planted acreage. U.S corn growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when the corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most states, as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as corn price outlook remains strong, due in part to the continued expansion of ethanol production. Farmers in the 10 major corn producing states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) intend to plant 66.6 million acres, down 8 percent from the 72.0 million acres planted last year.

Soybean planting intentions for Wisconsin are 1.65 million acres, up 22 percent from 1.35 million acres last year, and the same acreage as 2 years ago. Nationwide, growers project 74.8 million acres will be planted to soybeans, a jump of 18 percent from last year, yet slightly below 2006 planted acreage of 75.5 million acres. Last year, many growers switched from soybeans to corn, as ethanol expansion strongly increased the demand for corn. In contrast, many growers intend to plant more soybeans this year due to high prices and strong demand for soybeans.

In 2008, Wisconsin farmers anticipate planting 260,000 acres to oats, a 10,000 acre decrease from 2007. At the national level, acres seeded or to be seeded to oats are expected to decline 9 percent from 3.76 million in 2007 to 3.42 million in 2008. If realized, this will be the lowest planted acreage on record at both the national and state levels.

Wisconsin barley 2008 planting intentions are unchanged from last year at 40,000 acres. Nationally, barley acres planted are on the rise, up 3 percent reaching 4.15 million acres.

Acres planted in Wisconsin to winter wheat in the fall of 2007 for harvest in 2008 increased 40,000 acres from a year ago to reach 330,000 acres. Nationwide, acres planted to winter wheat totaled 46.8 million acres, up 4 percent from 2007.

Wisconsin spring wheat intentions jumped up 11,000 acres to 20,000 acres in 2008. Nationally 14.3 million acres planted to spring wheat are projected for 2008.

All dry hay area harvested in Wisconsin during 2008 is expected to reach 2.05 million acres, up slightly from 2007. U.S. producers anticipate harvesting 60.6 million acres of hay in 2008, down 2 percent from last year.

Wisconsin dry edible bean acreage is expected to be 5,500 acres in 2008, a 10 percent decrease from 2007, yet very close to the 5,600 planted acres in 2006. Prospective 2008 plantings of dry beans in the U.S. total 1.40 million acres, down 8 percent from the previous year.

The information contained in this report is based on a planting intention survey of farm operations conducted during the first two weeks of March. Final planted acreage will depend on factors such as weather during planting and market conditions. More information on planted acres will be available in the Acreage Report published June 30, 2008 by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Planted Acreage for 2006, 2007 and Prospective March 2008

Crop	2006	2007	2008	2008/07
	Thousand acres			Percent
WISCONSIN				
Corn, all	3,650	4,050	3,650	-10
Soybeans	1,650	1,350	1,650	+22
Oats	370	270	260	-4
Barley	50	40	40	n.c.
Winter wheat	250	290	330	+14
Spring wheat	11	9	20	+122
Hay, all*	2,140	2,020	2,050	+1
Dry edible beans	5.6	6.1	5.5	-10
UNITED STATES				
Corn, all	78,327	93,600	86,014	-8
Soybeans	75,522	63,631	74,793	+18
Oats	4,168	3,760	3,420	-9
Barley	3,452	4,020	4,147	+3
Winter wheat	40,575	44,987	46,840	+4
Spring wheat	14,899	13,297	14,333	+8
Hay, all*	60,927	61,625	60,583	-2
Dry edible beans	1,630	1,527	1,399	-8

*Area harvested. Source: USDA NASS WI FO